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THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

MISSIONS

Missionary Program for South America

In the *Missionary Review of the World*, March, Samuel Guy Inman gives a splendid report of the findings of the Committee on Co-operation in Latin America. The deputation is the product of the Panama Congress and is composed of some twenty well-known Christian leaders, representing practically all the American mission boards doing work in South America. Conferences were held by the deputation in four of the largest centers of South America, namely, Lima, Santiago, Buenos Aires, and Rio de Janeiro. These conferences agreed on: (1) the need of a division of territorial responsibility; (2) a common name for the Evangelical Church; (3) a union of effort in the production of literature; (4) united effort in the education of a native ministry; (5) the appointment of permanent committees to continue the work begun by the conferences.

In addition to these pronouncements the deputation, under the chairmanship of A. W. Halsey, drew up a remarkable set of findings which mapped out a program for the whole continent. Dr. J. R. Mott says of them: "These findings constitute a remarkable statement. . . . I am constrained to regard what you have done as the finest example of this kind with which I am familiar." These findings report great unoccupied areas. They include the Republic of Ecuador, with a population of more than 1,500,000; the northern half of Peru, with a population of 2,000,000; the Argentine provinces of Misiones, Corrientes, and Entre Rios; the Republic of Paraguay, and a large portion of Brazil. There are other inadequately occupied areas, which include: the southern half of Peru, with a population

of 2,000,000; the Republic of Chile, with 4,000,000 inhabitants; the southern half of Argentina, excepting Buenos Aires; and Uruguay, the most Latin of the South American republics. The deputation reports that a much larger program for the work already established must be provided. Numerous movements, such as education, politics, commerce, and racial reform, present wonderful opportunities, and "while in some places notable results have been attained, a hesitant policy by the boards, due to a lack of interest on the part of the home churches, the pathetically inadequate facilities for training a home ministry, a failure to impress the social message of the gospel, the lack of dignified and adequate church buildings, and too little co-operation among the various forces at work, are causing the forces to fail to enter in these great open doors as they should." In all the countries where a substantial work exists there was a considerable sentiment favorable to the recognition of greater autonomy for the church in the field. Nevertheless, the report encourages efforts in the way of wisely considered direction. It was a strong conviction in the minds of the deputation that a trained, competent national ministry is one of the most urgent needs of the evangelical movement. A recommendation was made, therefore, that three institutions for the training of Christian workers be established at Lima, Peru, Santiago, Chile, and some Brazilian city, and an international union theological seminary be established at Montevideo to offer advanced standing on a footing equal to that afforded by the best theological seminaries of North America. The missionaries who are to work in South America should have a thorough technical equipment; they should be of

broad culture and accustomed to move in refined society and possessed of diplomatic temperament. In the recommendations respecting method the deputation urged that there be evangelistic and apologetic lectureships, individual evangelism, and institutional work. The importance of the Sunday school is emphasized and a suggestion is made that two additional secretaries be appointed to assist the general secretary.

The Mission Outlook

When so much of the results of culture and religion is being shattered the reports of progress on the mission fields are greeted with joy. A recent writer is accredited, by the editor of *Missions*, with the following glowing report:

In Korea there is an average of 3,000 converts a week; in China 7,000 students, scholars, and officials are enrolled in Bible classes; in Japan evangelism is winning thousands; in India the mass movement is enrolling 150,000 candidates for baptism, and whole villages are turning to Christ. Africa has single churches with memberships of 10,000, and even South America is showing signs of spiritual awakening.

Almost as encouraging as the foregoing report is the point of emphasis which was

made in the instructions recently given to outgoing missionaries of the Church Missionary Society. The great principle of co-operation which the military tactics of the war have forced to the attention of the world must henceforth be regarded as fundamental in the missionary enterprise. The missionaries were told:

the value of unity in diversity; the value of united enterprises, like the union language schools, the Madras Christian College for Women, and the union of Chinese medical missions to provide proper medical instruction for that republic—above all, the supreme need of an intimate spirit of brotherhood—is taught by the war. The importance of the indigenous church becoming self-propagating and the urgent need for equipping natives themselves as ministers and leaders in their own communities was illustrated by Britain's sending her armies to France, "not to deliver her, but to assist her deliver herself."

The missionaries were also reminded that one of the factors in deciding the issue of great missionary enterprise would be, as in the war, "first, a great and worthy cause; second, full and complete sacrifice for that cause; third, leadership that inspires confidence."

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Rural Church

The frequency of the treatment of the rural church in current literature is indicative of the importance of the subject. Another aspect of the publicity which is being given to the rural church is that specialists in sociology are forcing upon the attention of church officials the urgency of the rural needs. For instance, William Herbert Stanley, field lecturer of Kansas Agricultural College, has written a lucid article in the *Christian Work*, March 10. It is obvious to him that the rural problem is being studied as never before. The literature of the last twenty-five years indicates that the life of the cities has had the

bulk of attention, but following on the heels of this investigation of city life has come the realization that the fountain from which the saving stream of virile life in America flows to the cities is in the open country. While the pendulum has been swinging to its farthest reach in the direction of the city, a counter problem has developed in the rural communities which is as serious a menace to the final moral goal in our land as ever the rapid rise of the city constituted. Among the considerations to be taken account of in dealing with this neglected field the writer of the aforementioned article names four. In the first place, an entirely different attitude by denomina-